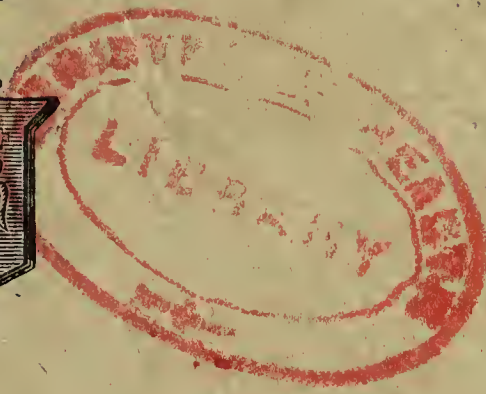
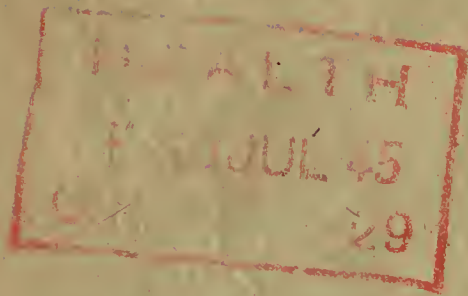


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Port and Borough of King's Lynn.

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
Medical Officer of Health
FOR THE YEAR 1944

BY

JAMES W. McINTOSH

B.Sc. (Public Health) M.B.Ch.B., F.R.C.S.E.

WITH WHICH IS INCLUDED THE
Annual Report of the
Borough Sanitary Inspector
Mr. H. G. COBBOLD, M.S.I.A.

BOROUGH OF KING'S LYNN.

Health and Port Health Committee.

Chairman : Alderman J. HARWOOD CATLEUGH.

Alderman W. B. LOCK.

„ J. W. RABY.

„ G. G. SADLER.

Councillor A. A. ANDERSON.

„ J. J. BONE.

„ D. F. BURLINGHAM.

„ A. P. BURTON.

„ A. L. CARPENTER.

„ A. M. FISHER (Mrs.).

„ T. A. FROST.

„ H. IVES.

„ J. T. NEAVE.

„ W. J. PANTON.

„ J. WHITMORE.

„ O. JERMYN.

BOROUGH OF KING'S LYNN.

Public Health Officers of the Authority :—

- (a) (Medical). All Medical Officers are part time. Some are employed by the Norfolk County Council and hold Clinics, etc., in King's Lynn.

Medical Officer to the Health and Port Health Authority ;
Superintendent of Infectious Disease and Smallpox Hospitals
and School Medical Officer :—

JAMES W. McINTOSH, B.Sc. (Public Health), M.B.,
F.R.C.S.E.

Tuberculosis Officer (Norfolk County Council) :—

D. MORRISON SMITH, M.B., CH.B., D.P.H.

Orthopædic Surgeon (Norfolk County Council) :—

J. K. McKEE, F.R.C.S.

Venereal Disease (Norfolk County Council) :—

JAMES W. McINTOSH, B.Sc. (Public Health), M.B.,
F.R.C.S.E.

Consultant Medical Officer under Midwives Act :—

Vacant.

Ophthalmic Surgeon :—

S. T. PARKER, M.B., CH.B., L.R.C.P., F.R.C.S.ENG.

Poor Law Medical Officer and Public Vaccinator :—

M. CHADWICK, B.A., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

- (b) Veterinary Surgeon :—

H. C. SWANN, M.R.C.V.S.

Public Analyst :—S. GREENBURGH, F.I.C., F.C.S.

Senior Sanitary Inspector to the Health and Port Health
Authority :—

H. G. COBBOLD, M.S.I.A.

Additional Sanitary Inspector to the Health and Port Health
Authority :—

H. F. ROBINSON, M.S.I.A., A.R.SAN.I. (On Active Service).

Vaccination Officer :—G. H. J. CHAMBERLAIN.

Health Visitors :—

Mrs. FORBES.

Mrs. PETTS,

To the Chairman and Members
OF THE
Health and Port Health Committee
of King's Lynn.

*Public Health Department,
3, King Street,
King's Lynn,
April, 1945.*

Madam and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report for the year 1944.

The general health of the Borough is good. There have been no serious outbreaks of Infectious Disease. The conditions as regards food and water supply and general sanitation have been well maintained. About 12 houses are supplied by a stand pipe. There has been a great extension of school feeding. There are now five canteens, which are attended by 1,100 children daily. Stanley House Sick Bay has treated 110 patients, of whom 60 were town children, 49 evacuees and one adult. 25 of these cases were sent in from the County. 253 cases of skin disease have been treated in the Outpatients' Department, of whom 211 were town patients, 38 evacuees, and 4 from the County.

Maternal Mortality.

563 live births and 7 still births have been notified to me. There were no maternal deaths. In the last seven years there have been 3058 confinements with one maternal death.

Infantile Mortality.

21 children died during the year, under one year of age. Eleven died at one month or less, 5 of malformation and 6 premature. Of the remaining ten, 4 died of broncho-pneumonia, 1 of intestinal obstruction, 2 of gastro-enteritis, 1 of congenital syphilis, 1 of cerebral hæmorrhage, and 1 of a throat infection.

General standard of cleanliness.

We do not find that head lice amongst children under five years of age are a serious problem except in certain derelict families, of whom a record is kept, and who are regularly visited both by Health Visitors and Housing Inspectors. Two Welfare Clinics are held weekly, when a doctor and a Health Visitor are in attendance. Children under five years suffering from impetigo, scabies or other skin trouble including head lice are, if in a bad condition, treated at the Sick Bay at Stanley House by special arrangement with the Health Committee. There is an Out-patients' Department at the Sick Bay now in operation, where baths are given, and a nurse supplies various treatments for skin diseases. The Health Visitors seldom find head lice in young children, and where they do, the mother gets rid of the trouble by the use of toothcombs, etc., and the application of lethane oil. No doubt the fact that many mothers in this town have only one or two children to look after accounts for the relative immunity from skin diseases. The general health of the children is very good. I find that skin diseases and head lice is more of a problem amongst the school children. There were 380 cases of nits, 49 of scabies, and 48 of ringworm in school children. Twelve cases of ringworm were sent to Norwich for X-ray treatment. There were also 59 cases of ringworm of the body.

War-time Nursery.

The average attendance at the Nursery has steadily increased. At the beginning of the year the average weekly attendance was 31; with the opening of the new extension on the 1st September, the average rose to 58.

On January 1st the Nursery became an official training school for Nursery Nurses. There are seven student nurses. The success of the Nursery reflects great credit on the energy and ability of the Matron and her staff. The only serious outbreak of Infectious Disease was at the beginning of the year. There were 20 cases of German Measles. One case of mumps and one case of chickenpox also occurred, but these cases were isolated at once, and there was no further spread.

Derelict Families.

Nine derelict families have been investigated by the Health Visitors. In five cases the father was away from home serving in the Forces. Of the remaining four, one was described as lazy and below normal. As regards the mothers, two were suffering from syphilis, and four were mentally sub-normal. There were 67 children in the nine families, ranging in age from 20 years downwards, 46 being ten years or under. The income of four of these families varied between £3/8/0 and £4 per week. The other five

from £4 to £6/5/0. All the families were living in Council Houses with subsidised rents except one, and in this case the rent was under seven shillings, and the income £3/15/0, with four children; the father was sometimes away from home.

In all cases the children were well fed, but dirty and frequently absent from school and generally out of control. The houses were in a disgraceful condition. It is quite clear that the 67 children in these families are having a very poor start in life. The absence of the father in half the cases no doubt has serious results, especially as most of these mothers are lazy, immoral or mentally sub-normal. In no case can actual poverty or bad housing be put forward as the cause. It would be fair to say that the parents in these nine families are not able to cope with the difficulty of bringing up children in war time. The Health Visitors have done everything they can to help the mothers. Home Helps have been employed in some cases, but are difficult to get, and in the few cases where they have been tried they have not been a success. The Inspector of the N.S.P.C.C. has backed up the Health Visitors, and proceedings have been instituted in several cases. It is in these cases that nits in the hair and impetigo are specially prevalent. In none of the cases was there intentional unkindness to the children, and there were no cases of starvation. In fact, as I have already said, the children were all well fed.

Air Raid Precautions Scheme.

The Scheme is still in force. All the doctors in the Town take part.

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

1.—(a) Laboratory Facilities.

No change.

(b) Ambulance Facilities.

No change.

(c) Nursing in the Home.

No change.

(d) Treatment Centres and Clinics.

No change.

(e) Hospitals.

No change.

2.—(i) **Midwifery and Maternity Services.**

There are now four maternity homes in the town, in Portland Street, Birchwood Street, Wellesley Street and Saddlebow Road. These are in addition to the two Nursing Homes in Tennyson Avenue and Goodwins Road, which take maternity cases. There are three beds available at the Public Assistance Institution. Birchwood Street is allowed to take two cases, Wellesley Street and Saddlebow Road one each. The Portland Street Home is closed and the general position is very difficult owing to overcrowding. Patients are sent to Stow Vicarage Emergency Home, to Wisbech and Hunstanton, but many mothers are forced to have their confinements in the houses of relatives in difficult conditions. It is remarkable that, under the circumstances, there have been no maternal deaths in 570 confinements. The scheme for a Borough Maternity Home has been held up for a time at least.

(ii) **Institutional Provision for Mothers and Children.**

No change.

(iii) **Health Visitors.**

No change.

(iv) **Infant Life Protection.**

No change.

(v) **Orthopaedic Treatment.**

Mr. McKee, Orthopaedic Surgeon under the Norfolk County Council, holds a Clinic at the Welfare Centre on the last Monday of each month. The Orthopaedic nurse attends every Tuesday to give treatment and exercises.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

1.—**Water.**

Public Analyst's Laboratory,
Tenison Road,
Cambridge.

CERTIFICATE OF ANALYSIS.

Sample of Water labelled "Town Water Supply No. 2," received on the 22nd November, 1944, from H. G. Cobbold, Esq., Borough of King's Lynn.

Physical Characters	...	...	...	Good
Reaction	...	...	...	pH 7.5

The Sample contained :—

	<i>Parts per 100,000</i>
Chlorine	2.05
Ammonia (Free and Saline)	absent
Ammonia (Albuminoid)	0.0006
Oxygen absorbed in 3 hrs. at 37° C	0.0357
Nitrates (expressed as Nitrogen)	0.50
Nitrates	absent
Poisonous Metals	absent

Bacteriological Examination.

Coliform organisms absent in 100 mls.

Number of microorganisms per ml. developing on Agar at 37° C = nil.

Number of microorganisms per ml. developing on Agar at 21° C = 3.

Microscopical Examination of Deposit.

None.

Total Hardness ... 1314 degrees (grains per gallon)

INFERENCE.

The results obtained on the analysis of this sample do not show any evidence of pollution with harmful organic or inorganic matter.

Special tests indicated the absence of lead.

I am of opinion that this water is fit for drinking purposes.

(Signed) S. GREENBURGH,

Public Analyst.

2.—**Rivers and Streams.**

No change.

3.—(i) **Closet Accommodation.**

No change.

(ii) **Public Cleansing.**

No change.

(iii) **Sanitary Inspection of the Area.**

The following is a summary of the work done during the year under the various Public Health and Housing Acts, viz.:—

1642 Special complaints and special visits made.

164 Informal notices and intimations served.

25 Statutory Notices served.

18 Notices fully completed according to specification.

Also :—

Houses and rooms cleansed	...	...	...	1
Pigs removed	...	...	...	1
Water closet cisterns repaired and renewed	...	...	...	11
Drains re-laid or repaired	...	...	...	4
Drains cleared	...	...	...	18
Inspection chambers provided	...	...	...	2
Suitable ashbins provided	...	...	...	7
Dampness of walls remedied	...	...	...	3
Rabbit hutches removed to bottom of garden	...	...	...	1
Ceiling plaster repaired	...	...	...	18
Walls rendered	...	...	...	3
Stoves renewed	...	...	...	2
House drains connected to sewer	...	...	...	3
Defective chimneys repaired	...	...	...	2
Windows repaired, renewed or made to open	...	...	...	24
Sashcords renewed	...	...	...	2
Eaves gutters provided and fixed	...	...	...	14
Water closets provided and fixed or repaired, cleansed or unblocked	...	...	...	11
Wall plaster repaired	...	...	...	10
Fireplaces renewed and repaired	...	...	...	3
Defective and dangerous walls repaired or removed	...	...	...	2
Coppers repaired or renewed	...	...	...	4
Water service pipe in yard, etc., provided	...	...	...	3
New sink provided	...	...	...	1
Service pipes to sinks repaired	...	...	...	3
Passage paved	...	...	...	1
Skirting boards repaired	...	...	...	2
Roofs repaired or renewed	...	...	...	34
Floorboards repaired or renewed	...	...	...	15
Choked fall pipes cleared or repaired	...	...	...	2
Defective joint to W.C. repaired	...	...	...	1
Defective back gate repaired	...	...	...	1
Defective step to back door repaired	...	...	...	1
Passage and yard cleaned	...	...	...	1
Ventilation provided in larder or kitchen or scullery	...	...	...	5
New floor laid	...	...	...	1
Dangerous chimney stacks repaired	...	...	...	3
New W.C.s provided	...	...	...	2
Dangerous chimney stack removed	...	...	...	1
Doors repaired or renewed	...	...	...	4

Houses let in Lodgings.

No change.

Common Lodging Houses.

The two common lodging houses were regularly visited and found to be conducted in a satisfactory manner.

Meetings of Owners and Tradesmen.

240 meetings were held with regard to defective houses, drains, etc.

House Drains.

During the year 152 drains were tested and examined. In all cases where defects were found notices were served on the owners concerned.

Rats and Mice (Destruction) Act, 1919.

Two ratcatchers have been at work throughout the year, with satisfactory results. About 2,000 rats have been destroyed at the Hardwick Road dump, and about 2,800 in the town sewers. These figures can only be approximate. In addition to these, private houses and business premises were constantly treated, with good effect. I think it can be safely said that the rat menace is well in hand. 21 notices on owners of property have been served.

Eradication of Bed Bugs and Fleas.

(2) Number of house rooms disinfested (including Council and private houses)	270
--	-----

Schools.

No change.

HOUSING STATISTICS.

1.—Inspection of Dwellinghouses during the year:—

- | | |
|--|-----|
| (1) (a) Total number of dwellinghouses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) | 70 |
| (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose... | 362 |
| (2) (a) Number of dwellinghouses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 | 70 |
| (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose... | 362 |

2.—Remedy of defects during the year without service of Formal Notices :—

Number of defective dwellinghouses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	30
--	-----	-----	----

3.—Action under Statutory Powers during the year :—

(a) Proceedings under Section 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :

(1) Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	...	17
(2) Number of dwellinghouses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :		
(a) By Owners	...	15
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners		Nil.

(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts :

(1) Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	...	...	...	19
(2) Number of dwellinghouses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :				
(a) By Owners	...	...	...	16
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners				Nil.

(c) Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :

(1) Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	...	...	Nil.
(2) Number of dwellinghouses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	...	...	Nil.

(d) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	...	...	...	Nil.
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined the tenement or room having been rendered fit	...	...	...	Nil.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(b) **Meat and other Food.**

No change.

Slaughter-house.

(See Meat and other Food). 1003 visits have been made to the Slaughterhouse during the year.

Markets.

No change. 47 visits have been made to markets during the year.

(c) **Food and Drugs (Adulteration) Act, 1928.**

During the year 29 samples of Food and Drugs were submitted for analysis.

(d) **Chemical and Bacteriological Examination of Food.**

This was carried out by S. Greenburgh, Esq., F.I.C., F.C.S., Public Analyst, Tenison Road, Cambridge.

CARCASES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED.

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed (if known) 	3602	902	1432	10344	998
Number inspected 	3602	902	1432	10344	998
All diseases except Tuberculosis—					
Whole carcasses condemned 	11	8	1	14	3
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned 	884	143	16	59	16
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis 	24.8%	16.7%	1.1%	.7%	1.9%
Tuberculosis only—					
Whole carcasses condemned 	23	45	4	—	3
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned 	763	287	1	—	147
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis ...	21.26%	36.8%	.32%	—	15%

CHEMICAL EXAMINATION OF FOOD.

Article		Samples Taken		Samples Unsatisfactory	
		Formal	Informal	Formal	Informal
New Milk	...	24			
Butter	...	1			
Lard	...	1			
Baking Powder	...	1			
Margarine	...	1			
Egg Substitute	...	1		1	
Totals		29		1	

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

There were no cases of smallpox in the Borough during the year.

There were 74 cases of scarlet fever, of whom 51 were school children. 22 of the cases were removed to the Infectious Diseases Hospital. No deaths were attributed to scarlet fever. There were 8 cases of diphtheria.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

Immunisation continues to be carried out at the school clinics, the Welfare Centre, and by private doctors. In 1944, 292 children under five years of age were immunised, and 116 between the ages of five and fifteen. About 88% of school children and 60% of those under five have been treated. The figures are approximate only.

There were seven cases of puerperal pyrexia, none of which was fatal.

Venereal diseases is treated at the West Norfolk and King's Lynn Hospital, by arrangement with the Norfolk County Council.

The figures for 1942, 1943 and 1944 for primary and secondary syphilis in women were 14, 18 and 14 respectively. It is no use giving the figures for men, as, owing to the war they are not, in the majority of cases, living at home and are constantly changing their addresses. Before the war one or two female cases of syphilis used to be seen in a year and in 1939 there was no female case.

Enquiries were made with reference to all cases of Infectious Diseases notified. 475 rooms, and 110 hospital wards were disinfected and 6039 articles were treated at the steam disinfectors.

ANALYSIS OF DIPHTHERIA FOR THE PAST SEVENTEEN YEARS.

	Notifica- tions.	Under One.	1 to 5.	5 to 15.	15 to 25.	25 to 45.	45 to 65.	Deaths
1928	221	—	25	154	28	14	—	12
1929	80	—	14	51	11	3	1	8
1930	86	—	16	62	3	3	2	10
1931	28	—	7	12	4	3	2	4
1932	19	—	4	9	3	3	—	2

1933	3	—	1	2	—	—	—	1
1934	5	—	1	3	—	1	—	2
1935	12	—	2	6	2	1	1	1
1936	11	—	2	7	1	1	—	1
1937	16	—	2	8	2	4	—	—
1938	40	—	7	31	—	2	—	—
1939	15	—	2	13	—	—	—	—
1940	33	—	9	21	2	1	—	3
1941	23	1	5	14	1	2	—	—
1942	7	—	3	4	—	—	—	—
1943	16	—	3	8	4	1	—	1
1944	8	—	1	4	3	—	—	—

The following cases were admitted into the Infectious Diseases Hospital during 1944, viz. :—

27 cases of scarlet fever.

3 cases of tonsilitis.

2 cases of diphtheria.

2 cases of mumps.

1 case of chicken pox.

19 cases of german measles.

1 case of measles.

3 cases of whooping cough.

1 case of jaundice.

Of these, 26 were soldiers and airmen from various camps surrounding King's Lynn.

CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE **NOTIFIED DURING 1944.**

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.					Cases Notified in King's Lynn.							
					At all Ages.	At Ages—Years.						
						Under 1.	1 to 5.	5 to 15.	15 to 25.	25 to 45.	45 to 65.	65 and over.
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	74	1	12	51	6	4	—	—
Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	8	—	1	4	3	—	—	—
Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	20	2	4	1	1	6	3	3
Mumps	...	...	...	...	6	—	2	4	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	56	8	33	14	—	1	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	...	...	...	7	—	—	—	—	7	—	—
Tuberculosis (Pulmonary)	...	...	...	...	14	—	—	1	5	4	3	1
Tuberculosis (other forms)	...	...	...	...	8	—	—	3	2	1	2	—
Erysipelas	...	...	...	...	5	—	—	—	—	3	2	—
Meningitis	...	...	...	...	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Chicken Pox	...	...	...	...	37	—	13	21	3	—	—	—
Scabies	...	...	...	...	68	1	14	31	13	9	—	—
Measles	...	...	...	...	20	—	15	5	—	—	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	...	...	...	...	3	3	—	—	—	—	—	—
Jaundice	...	...	...	...	3	—	—	—	1	2	—	—
Totals					330	15	94	135	34	37	11	4

Tuberculosis. New Cases and Mortality during 1944.

			New Cases.				Deaths.			
			Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.		Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.	
			M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15	...	...	—	1	—	3	—	—	—	—
25	...	...	3	2	1	1	2	—	—	—
35	...	...	—	2	—	—	—	1	—	—
45	...	...	—	2	—	1	1	—	—	—
55	...	...	3	—	2	—	2	—	—	—
65	...	...	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Totals ...			7	7	3	5	6	1	—	—

Source of Water Supply.

No change.

Port Sanitary Regulations, 1933.

No change.

Health Visitors' Report for 1944.

To the Council of the Borough of King's Lynn.

Madam and Gentlemen,

We beg to submit our Annual Report for the year ending 31st December, 1944.

During that period we have paid the following number of visits :—

To children under one year—First visits	...	...	502
Total visits	...	...	2787
To children between 1—5 years	...	...	2470
To expectant mothers—First visits	...	...	366
Total visits	...	...	852
Post Natal	...	...	47

Number of Foster Mothers—1.

Number of Foster Children—1.

Number of visits paid—12.

Maternity Homes.

Twelve mothers were escorted to Stow Vicarage Maternity Emergency Home, 11 went to the Public Assistance Institution, 1 to the General Hospital and 2 to the Wisbech Emergency Home.

Immunisation Clinics.

There is no special diphtheria immunisation clinic. The babies are now immunised at the Infant Welfare Centre, when they reach their first birthday. 137 children were immunised. There were 154 sessions at the Infant Welfare Centre (including Ante-natal and Post-natal clinics) and we attended at each session. All the children attending the day Nursery are regularly examined at the Welfare Centre.

We have the honour to be, Madam and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servants,

M. FORBES.

W. M. PETTS.

In conclusion, I would like to thank the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee for the assistance they have given me and to express my appreciation of the work done by the staff of the Public Health Department during the past year.

I remain, Madam and Gentlemen,

Very faithfully yours,

JAMES W. McINTOSH,

Medical Officer of Health.

